Female literacy

*239. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made substantial changes in the definition of literacy with specific focus on achieving 80 per cent literacy target for women by the end of Eleventh Plan period;

(b) if so, whether State Governments have been given directions to focus on female literacy and achieve targets; and

(c) if so, the details of other assistance the Central Government proposes to provide to State Governments where female literacy is very low?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) While the definition of literacy has not been changed, the Saakshar Bharat scheme does focus on women's literacy, especially in rural areas. 80% overall literacy is targeted by the end of the Eleventh plan period.

(b) The States/UT Governments have been informed that under Saakshar Bharat 70 million non-literates are to be made literate, of which 60 million will be women.

(c) The programme cost of Saakshar Bharat will be shared between the Govt. of India and the State/UT Governments in the ratio of 75:25 except the States of the North Eastern Region (NER) where the sharing will be in the ratio of 90:10.

Laying of foundation stone of Jammu-Baramulla line

*240. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone of Jammu-Baramulla rail line on 28th October, 2009; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that between 1983 to 2009 the foundation stone of this line has been laid several times?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) No, Sir. However, on 28th October, 2009 Hon'ble Prime Minister dedicated the newly constructed Anantnag-Qazigund rail line the inaugurated the First DEMU train between Qazigund and Anantnag.

(b) Between 1983 and 2009, foundation stones for different sections have been laid by the then Prime Ministers as per details given below:-

Date	Section	Foundation stone laid by
14-04-1983	Jammu-Udhampur	Late Smt. Indira Gandhi
15-03-1997	Udhampur-Katra	Sh. H.D. Deve Gowda
26-07-1997 at Qazigund (Starting Point)	Qazigund-Baramulla	Sh. I.K. Gujral
27-07-1997 at Baramulla (Terminating point)	Qazigund-Baramulla	Sh. I.K. Gujral

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Technical plan to address drought problem

†1677. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the failure of monsoon and drought in the country are becoming a permanent problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the technical plan of Government to keep the agriculture out of the affect of drought in the country; and

(d) the plans Government have for agriculture diversification other than technical plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Due to the varied agro-climatic regions and variation in the extent of rainfall during the monsoon season across the country, some parts of the country do suffer from drought like phenomenon. In 2009-10, due to the erratic behaviour of South-West Monsoon, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh declared drought/drought like/scarcity conditions.

(c) and (d) Declaration of drought is the domain of the State Government as also the responsibility to draw technical plan to minimize the affect of drought on agriculture. However, the Central Government closely monitors the progress of monsoon and takes actions deemed fit as well as advises the State Governments for appropriate action to minimize the impact of deficit rainfall on agriculture. Technical Plan of the Government includes providing additional allocation of power from the Central pool and diesel subsidy to save the standing crop in the field; providing appropriate agricultural advisories, positioning of inputs, use of Truthful Labelled (TL) seeds, relaxation in age for seed varieties, distribution of minikits under the Government programmes and subsidy to use certified seeds to enable taking up of diversified crop plans in unsown/germination

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.